Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-139 (canceled).

Claim 140 (currently amended) A method for detecting seroconversion associated with NANBV infection at early times after infection comprising:

~~1.~~(a) ~~forming~~ initiating an ~~aqueous~~ immunoreaction ~~admixture~~ by ~~admixing~~ contacting a body fluid sample with NANBV capsid antigen having the amino acid sequence from residue 1 to 120 of SEQ ID NO: 73;

~~2.~~(b) maintaining said ~~aqueous~~ immunoreaction ~~admixture~~ for a time period sufficient for allowing antibodies against the NANBV capsid antigen present in the body fluid sample to immunoreact with said NANBV capsid antigen to form an immunoreaction product; and

~~3.~~(c) detecting the presence of any of said immunoreaction product formed and thereby detecting early seroconversion.

Claim 141 (currently amended) A method for detecting seroconversion associated with NANBV infection at early times after infection comprising:

(a) ~~forming~~ initiating an ~~aqueous~~ immunoreaction ~~admixture~~ by ~~admixing a~~ contacting a body fluid sample with a NANBV capsid antigen and C-100-3 antigen;

(b) maintaining said ~~aqueous~~ immunoreaction ~~admixture~~ for a time period sufficient for allowing antibodies against ~~said~~ the NANBV capsid and C-100-3 antigens present in ~~the~~ said body fluid sample to immunoreact with said NANBV capsid and C-100-3 antigens to form immunoreaction products; and

(c) detecting the presence of any of said immunoreaction products formed and thereby detecting early seroconversion.

Claim 142 (previously presented) A method for detecting seroconversion associated with NANBV infection at early times after infection comprising:

(a) ~~forming~~ initiating an ~~aqueous~~ immunoreaction ~~admixture~~ by ~~admixing~~ contacting a body fluid sample with NANBV capsid antigen having the amino acid sequence from residue 1 to 120 of SEQ ID NO: 73 and C-100-3 antigen;

(b) maintaining said ~~aqueous~~ immunoreaction ~~admixture~~ for a time period sufficient for allowing antibodies against said NANBV capsid and C-100-3 antigens present in the body fluid sample to immunoreact with said NANBV capsid and C-100-3 antigens to form ~~an~~ immunoreaction products; and

(c) detecting the presence of any of said immunoreaction products formed and thereby detecting early seroconversion.

Claim 143 (previously presented) The method of claims ~~137, 138, 140,~~ 141 or 142 wherein said detecting in step (c) comprises the steps of:

~~(i)~~(a) admixing said immunoreaction products formed in step (b) with a labeled specific binding agent to form a labeling admixture, said labeled specific binding agent comprising a specific binding agent and a label;

~~(ii)~~(b) maintaining said labeling admixture for a period sufficient for any of said immunoreaction products present to bind with said labeled product; and

~~(iii)~~(c) detecting the presence of any said labeled product formed, and thereby the presence of said immunoreaction products.

Claim 144 (previously presented) The method of claim 143 wherein said specific binding agent is selected from the group consisting of Protein A, anti-human IgG and anti-human IgM.

Claim 145 (withdrawn) The method of claim 143, wherein said label is selected from the group consisting of lanthanide chelate, biotin, enzyme and radioactive isotope.

Claim 146 (previously presented) The method of claim 143, wherein said ~~NANBV capsid~~ antigens ~~is~~ are affixed to a solid matrix.

Claim 147 (previously presented) The method of claim 143, wherein said ~~NANBV capsid~~ antigens ~~is~~ are comprised of a fusion protein.